# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1653
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Assistance to Women in Distress
Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries who have received legal/financial assistance under the Ministry's scheme to assist Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses;

(b) whether the details of the scheme has been uploaded on the Ministry's website;

(c) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to upload the details of the habitual offenders, who enter into multiple marriages, on the website of the Ministry;

(d) if so, the time by when the same is likely to be done; and

(e) the cases wherein stringent action has been taken along with the reasons for pendency of the rest of the cases?

## Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) The Ministry's scheme for legal/financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses is provided through Indian Missions in 13 countries namely USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Singapore, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

As per information made available by March 31, 2016 by Indian Missions in these 13 countries, the total number of beneficiaries who have received legal/financial assistance under this scheme during 2012 to 2016 is 85.
(b) Yes. The details of the scheme are available on the Ministry's website (http://www.mea.gov.in/legal-and-financial-assistance.htm).

(c) Neither the Ministry nor the Indian Missions received information about habitual overseas Indian offenders who enter into multiple marriages.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Under the Ministry's scheme, Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses receive through Indian Missions, assistance upto US$ 3000 per case for developed countries and US$2000 per case for developing countries. This assistance is provided by Missions through their empanelled legal counsel/ Women's organizations/NGOs or Indian Community Associations.

Since overseas Indians who desert their spouses, are living outside India, aggrieved Indian women are seeking redressal under the Indian legal system as well as from the judiciary in the foreign country where the overseas Indian is residing.

Missions have informed that through assistance provided under this scheme, judicial proceedings have been initiated in some cases vis-Ã -vis the overseas Indian spouse in the concerned foreign country. Missions have also informed that they do not have information about cases where the overseas Indian spouse was arrested or punished.

Assistance provided through the scheme has enabled the Indian women, to meet legal costs such as documentation and preparatory work for filing a case against the overseas Indian spouse and other aspects of judicial proceedings; to avail counseling and, in some cases for financial support for sustenance, accommodation, etc.